

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Barry D. Kurtz et al.

Serial No.: 09/888,659

Filed: June 25, 2001

Docket No.: 10003919-1

Title: DOCUMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT INCLUDING AVAILABILITY REPORTING OF DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing document distribution services, the method comprising:

registering the document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services;

identifying at least one resource of the document distribution providers for performing each of the document distribution services, including defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource;

distributing documents with the document distribution services, including receiving and processing document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document distribution services; and

monitoring an availability of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services, including recording a real-time status and a historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the document distribution services includes registering the print services, and wherein identifying at least one resource for performing each of the document distribution services includes identifying at least one printer which provides the print services.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes defining at least one printer attribute of the at least one printer, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes recording a status of the at least one printer attribute of the at least one printer.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein recording the status of the at least one printer attribute of the at least one printer includes recording at least one of a quantity level of print medium for the at least one printer, a status of a print media path of the at least one printer, a quantity level of marking material for the at least one printer, and a status of an input/output connection of the at least one printer.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein registering the document distribution services includes registering the electronic mail services, and wherein identifying at least one resource for performing each of the document distribution services includes identifying at least one electronic mail application which provides the electronic mail services.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes defining at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes recording a status of the at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein recording the status of the at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application includes recording at least one of a status of a communication link of the at least one electronic mail application, a transfer rate of the at least one electronic mail application, and a delivery success rate of the at least one electronic mail application.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein registering the document distribution services includes registering the publishing services, and wherein identifying at least one resource for performing each of the document distribution services includes identifying at least one print service provider which provides the publishing services.~~

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10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes defining at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes recording a status of the at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein recording the status of the at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider includes recording at least one of a consumables inventory of the at least one print service provider and a lead time of the at least one print service provider.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating an availability report of the document distribution services, including compiling the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
distributing the availability report of the document distribution services to a system administrator.
14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing document distribution services, the method comprising:

registering the document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the document distribution services including ~~at least one of~~ print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services;

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identifying at least one resource of the document distribution providers for performing each of the document distribution services, including defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource;

distributing documents with the document distribution services, including receiving and processing document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document distribution services; and

monitoring an availability of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services, including recording a real-time status and a historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for managing document distribution services, the system comprising:

a document distribution system controller configured to have the document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers registered therewith, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services; and

an availability analysis system associated with the document distribution system controller and adapted to monitor an availability of the document distribution services,

wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive and process document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document distribution services, and the document distribution services are adapted to distribute documents based on the requests, and

wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a real-time status and a historical status of at least one attribute of at least one resource of the document distribution providers for each of the document distribution services.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the document distribution services include the print services, and wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to

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record a status of at least one printer attribute of at least one printer configured to provide the print services.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record at least one of a quantity level of print medium for the at least one printer, a status of a print media path of the at least one printer, a quantity level of marking material for the at least one printer, and a status of an input/output connection of the at least one printer.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, ~~wherein the document distribution services include the electronic mail services, and~~ wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a status of at least one electronic mail attribute of at least one electronic mail application configured to provide the electronic mail services.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record at least one of a status of a communication link of the at least one electronic mail application, a transfer rate of the at least one electronic mail application, and a delivery success rate of the at least one electronic mail application.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, ~~wherein the document distribution services include the publishing services, and~~ wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a status of at least one print service provider attribute of at least one print service provider configured to provide the publishing services.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record at least one of a consumables inventory of the at least one print service provider and a lead time of the at least one print service provider.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to compile the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one

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attribute of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services and generate an availability report of the document distribution services.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to distribute the availability report of the document distribution services to a system administrator.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a communication network configured to link the document distribution system controller and the system administrator, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to distribute the availability report of the document distribution services to the system administrator via the document distribution system controller and the communication network.